

BEACON

514th Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve, McGuire AFB, NJ



Women who dare: Military women of today making history

See Page 6

**Maintenance makes
grade, passes LSEP**

See Page 5

**Meet Lt. Col. Bowers,
new ops group CC**

See Page 9

**Military uniform board
ends with new rules**

See Page 11



Letter to Airmen

United States Air Force Core Values

I continue to be honored to serve with you as Secretary of this great Air Force. Whether on the ground, in air or space, or on the new frontier of cyberspace – and whether you wear uniforms or civilian clothes – you respond to daily challenges that embody our core values of *Integrity First*, *Service Before Self*, and *Excellence in All We Do*.

These core values reflect the values we share from the moment we take our oath to support and defend the constitution. We must continue to reflect on these values, linked to that oath. Sharing my thoughts in this note is part of that ongoing process.

Integrity First reminds us we must “walk the talk” – our words and actions must be *integrated* in our lives. It reminds us Thomas Jefferson’s concept of *moral muscles* – that we build and strengthen our character through daily exercise of words, actions, and decisions. *Integrity first* means not only physical courage, but moral courage as well, so that we sometimes stand up by speaking up. It means being loyal to our friends, to each other – *by being loyal to our oath, our Air Force, and our Nation*.

Service Before Self is not the same as “service,” a value also claimed by some civilian institutions and corporations. Our Service requires sacrifice and commitment to our Nation. We understand we make decisions in an environment where freedoms are on the line, and lives are at stake. *Service Before Self* begins with duty, but it means more. It means that, in our Air Force, as we fly and fight in war and peace, going *above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty* is not the exception – it is the rule.

Excellence in All We Do reminds us, at the most basic level, or the old “Hometown Newspaper Test” – imagining our parents reading about our actions, and wanting them to be proud. But it also includes the military concept of honor – knowing our actions reflect on all Airmen – and on the Air Force itself. It reminds us that we stand on the shoulders of giants: heroes like Billy Mitchell and Doolittle, Spaatz, and Rickenbacker; heroes who faced and beat incredible odds. We have inherited history of excellence, courage, and greatness. We must live up to that heritage, become part of it, and pass it on.

All Airmen are men and women of character. Our enduring *Air Force Core Values* provide a touchstone as we rise to meet current and future challenges, threats, and opportunities. As America’s Airmen, it is imperative that we maintain the moral high ground – our nation depends on it. I thank all of you for your contributions and sacrifices. *I salute you!*


Michael W. Wynne

BEACON

March 2006

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BEACON

514th Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve, McGuire AFB, NJ

CONTENTS



Page 5

Photo by Denise Gould

INSPECTION - Air reserve technician, Master Sgt. Corey Shagg, a 514th aircraft overhaul supervisor looks on as a Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program inspector reviews C-17 maintenance forms during the week-long LSEP beginning Feb. 5. Both 514th and 305th Maintenance Group members were evaluated on safety and technical knowledge and performance.



Page 6

Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

LOOKING BACK - Staff Sgts. Virma Salazar and Heather Casper, both medical technicians assigned to the 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, review emergency medical technician recertification paperwork during a unit training weekend. In observance of Women's History Month, they represent two of over 660 females assigned to the 514th Air Mobility Wing.

On the cover



Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

Captain Kellie Kavanaugh, a pilot with the 76th Air Refueling Squadron, takes note as Technical Sgt. Megan Weinstein of the 714th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron vents the number one engine of a KC-10 Stratotanker. The two Airmen are featured on Page 6.

Features

Women who dare 6

Departments

People 4

Briefs 4

Local news 5

Promotions 8

Air Force news 10

Honoring women of the 514th Air Mobility Wing

All women of the 514th Air Mobility Wing are invited and encouraged to gather at Pudgy's Circle at 10:45 a.m., March 11 and 25 for a group photo. Dress for the photo is uniform of the day.

A Lunch and Learn will take place in the auditorium of Bldg. 2216 following the photo on both days. The event is free. Those interested in attending should contact their first sergeants so lunch may be provided for all.

For more information about either event, call Chief Master Sgt. Antoinette Kolesnikov at (609) 754-5210.

VIBES:

You've been selected as the new wing commander. What's high on your to-do list?



Airman Basic John Matt
514th CES

I'd make sure our Airmen have everything they need to deploy. I'd also improve relations with the surrounding communities by joining in their fun days, etc.



Staff Sgt. Rashad Pleasant
514th LRF

Understanding that people are our greatest asset, I would place high priority on making sure the operational and personal needs of our members are met.



Staff Sgt. Melissa Mefferd
514th CS

I'd make sure the morale in the wing is up by holding more wing functions and events. I'd also make sure the new troops are being led in the right direction.



Major Phyllis K. Anderson
514th ASTS

High on my to-do list is getting to know my units, their needs and concerns including training and billeting issues.



Senior Master Sgt. Nilda Rivera-Frazier, 514th AMW

Ensure my unit commanders and first shirts have processes that encourage troops to up-channel communication.

BRIEFS

Free park admission for military

A tribute program that provides free admission to Anheuser-Busch theme parks to members of U.S. and coalition armed forces and their families has been extended through 2006.

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and up to three of his or her direct dependents. Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the program. Members need to register online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. The offer also applies to members of foreign military forces serving in the coalitions in Iraq or Afghanistan or attached to American units in the U.S. for training.

New commissary ID policy

Effective March 1 the commissary will only check identification cards at the cash registers prior to all purchases. Any individual who seeks to make a purchase from the commissary will be positively identified as an authorized patron at that time. Occasionally member ID cards will also be randomly checked at the point of entry in addition to at the cash register. Visitors are permitted to accompany authorized patrons into the commissary, but are prohibited from making any purchases at the commissary.

MCSS, shoppette new hours

Fort Dix Military Clothing Sales Store and the McGuire shoppette and gas station have new hours of operation:

MCSS

Sunday – Closed

Mon.-Sat. – 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

McGuire Shoppette

Mon.- Thurs. – 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday – 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday – 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Gas station

Mon.- Thurs. – 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Incorrectly identified

In the Vibes section of the February 2006 Beacon, Master Sgt. Amy W. Miller was incorrectly identified as Airman First Class Thalha Choudhury.

Wing announces quarterly awards

The following 514th Air Mobility Wing members were selected as the Airmen, NCO and Senior NCO of the first quarter:

Senior Airman Kevin R. Hyde, 514th Mission Support Squadron,

Staff Sgt. Steven E. Carroll, 514th Security Force Squadron,

Master Sgt. James P. Kana, 714th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Second quarter nominations must be submitted to the 514th AMW headquarters, building 2217 by March 28 The board meets in April.



Major Stephan Kajah
76th ARS

514th AMW loses member

The 514th Air Mobility Wing announces the passing of Maj. Stephan Kajah, 43, of the 76th Air Refueling Squadron. He died Feb. 15 in a skiing accident in Breckenridge, Colo.

Major Kajah spent nearly 10 years in the 514th serving as a flight commander and instructor pilot in the KC-10A. He was a 1987 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., where burial services were held Feb. 22.

He was employed by Gemini Air Cargo in his civilian life and is survived by his wife, Cynthia.

The 76th ARS is holding a memorial service at 2 p.m., March 11 in Bldg. 1829 in the Silhouette Theater.

Maintenance group passes Air Mobility Command LSEP

By Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries
514 AMW Public Affairs

Every 514th maintenance member owes themselves a pat on the back having successfully shown the Air Mobility Command Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program team they know and can perform their jobs.

February 5 through 13, the LSEP team focused their attention on how well the 514th Maintenance Group members complied with technical and safety operating instructions while performing their tasks.

Preparation is key to any endeavor and 514th maintenance members did their share.

"We completed mini internal LSEP inspections prior to the team arriving," said Senior Master Sgt. Nelson Rivera, superintendent, 514th quality insurance.

The 305th Maintenance Group was

also inspected alongside the reserve maintainers.

"Seamless integration was achieved effortlessly, with all personnel demonstrating a willingness to work together," said Lt. Col. Anthony Baity, commander, 514th MXG. "They freely shared their processes and welcomed evaluations," he said.

"Maintenance continuously refines processes to ensure we provide the ops community safe and reliable aircraft," said Captain Jose Lasso, 305th MXG officer in charge of quality assurance.

In addition to teamwork, the Colonel Baity said periodic safety messages were sent via the maintenance radio net to remind flight line personnel of proper tool and equipment use.

With this inspection behind them maintenance will not have another LSEP visit for 18 months.

Safety ride set

McGuire's motorcycle club the Green Knights, will hold a St. Patrick's Day motorcycle awareness ride around the base at 2 p.m. March 17 to spread the word and encourage safe motorcycle riding. Participants are asked to meet no later than 1:30 p.m. at the Collocated Club.

"With the nicer weather coming, this awareness ride provides a way for McGuire riders to put motorcycle riders in the forefront" said Lt. Col. Mark Ustaszewski, wing chief of safety and Green Knight member. "Those driving cars are on the lookout for other cars and have a tendency to forget motorcycle riders," he added.

Registered base motorcycle riders can participate in the ride. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Jason Cook at (609) 754-7217.

Base air traffic facility tours emphasize collision avoidance

By Lt. Col. Jonathan Spare
514th AMW Safety Office

McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., is situated in the midst of a complex airspace structure typical of the busy northeast corridor. Combined with a high concentration of aircraft occupying McGuire's finite airspace, the factors can be a recipe for disaster. Aircraft here are subject to midair collision potential while training in the local area. The primary concern of the safety office here is to educate and reduce the risk of midair collision among the general aviation community. Air traffic control maintains control and separation for aircraft operating under instrument flight rules, which requires adherence to flight plans and instructions from ATC. Other planes fly under visual flight rules, which allow aircraft to fly without ATC guidance or radio contact within certain parameters of airspace.

Recognizing the urgency this situation posed, the 514th Safety Office seized control of the base Mid-Air Collision Avoidance Program. MACA authored and distributed a comprehensive pamphlet on collision avoidance and displayed posters at each of 13 civilian airfields situated within McGuire's airspace. Most importantly, they concentrated their efforts on establishing relationships within the general aviation community. Through these contacts, the 514th Safety Office organizes local area safety seminars. Four years ago the office began soliciting at the seminars for pilots interested in touring base ATC facilities.



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Jon Spare
Civilian pilots get a tour of McGuire's radar approach control facility as part of their education on the air base's air traffic patterns and operation.

Through ATC facility tours, the pilots are given an up-close look at how ATC works. We're able to educate them on the local airspace composition, encourage communication, and inform them on local military flight operations. The attendees observe both control tower and radar approach control operations. Afterwards they tour a static display of a KC-10 or C-17. The response to the tours has been overwhelming. On average, the safety office conducts about one tour per month. Due to space constraints at the facilities, the size of each group is limited to around 10 people. All told, over 200 local area pilots have toured McGuire's ATC facilities since the tours began.

These tours not only enhance community relations, they are a valuable means to educate local civilian pilots on collision avoidance. Pilots go away with a much better understanding of local area operations and are more inclined to participate in the VFR advisory service. This service provides traffic information call outs for other aircraft in close proximity. These tours would not happen without the wonderful support of the 305th Operational Support Squadron, the organization to which the young men and women who perform controller duties belong. They gladly provide both an informative and entertaining tour. By establishing a rapport with the tour groups, they amplify their learning curve and encourage more questions. These tours have been and continue to be a resounding success. As a result, our local area skies are safer.

“I think women add a new dimension to the military experience - we have a different perspective that’s helped move the Air Force forward”

— Staff Sgt. Nermine Prusecki, 32, 514th Civil Engineer Squadron



*Tech. Sgt. Megan Weinstein, 29
Aircraft technician
715th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron*

“The biggest obstacle I faced in maintenance was overcoming the stereotype that women are not as competent as men. I don’t think of that as pressure, but more as motivation to prove them wrong.”



*Airman Odessa Beckham, 32
Services apprentice
514th Services Flight*

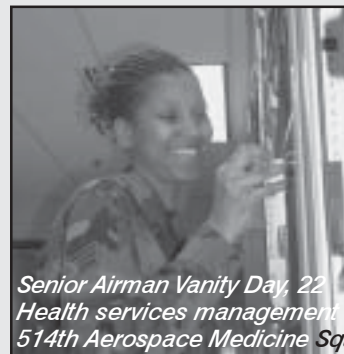
“The G.I. Bill brought me into the Air Force Reserve. My supervisors encourage me to further my military career. I want to contribute to the leadership and organization as I progress.”

Wing women - voices of the future



*Senior Airman Alexandria Diaz, 22
Voice networking journeyman
514th Communications Squadron*

“I wanted to get into the electronic and technical area and not work in a traditional woman’s field. There’s always something new developing in communications and it’s a good experience. What you learn here you can apply it on the outside.”



*Senior Airman Vanity Day, 22
Health services management
514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron*

“I think women can do the same things as men, I intend to complete 20 years in military service.”

“The Air Force truly is an integral part of today’s armed forces and I believe it’s genderless and women and men of all walks of life, race and religion work side-by-side.”



*Captain Kellie Kavanaugh, 34
KC-10 Pilot
76th Air Refueling Squadron*

Photos by Maser Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries



Photo by Master Sgt. Jon Feich

Newly appointed Chief Master Sgt. Linda Menser of the 514th Maintenance Group makes wing history by becoming the first female chief in maintenance. She joins the list of 17 other females recorded in wing history who were the first in other unit achievements. The list dates back to 1987 when Col. Sharon LaFrance was the first female to command the 514th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron and Master Sgt. Chryl Ruff became the first U.S. Air Force Clinic female air reserve technician.

Female MXS chief makes local history

By Master Sgt. John Feich
514th Mission Operations Flight

On Jan. 1, 2006, Senior Master Sgt. Linda Menser made wing history when she was promoted to chief master sergeant. Chief Menser is the first female chief master sergeant to be assigned in the 514th Maintenance Group.

Chief Menser joined the Air Force in December 1978. Upon completion of basic training and various technical schools, she was sent to Hellenikon Air Base, Greece for her first duty assignment. In May of 1980 she was honorably discharged from active duty.

In August of 1982, Chief Menser joined the Air Force Reserve and the 514 Air Mobility Wing, assigned as an air reserve technician in the aero repair shop, 514th Field Maintenance Squadron. Leaving the air reserve technician program in 1989, Chief Menser became a traditional reservist assigned to the 315th Organizational Maintenance Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. There she remained until 1992, when she transferred to the 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Westover Air Reserve Base, MA once again rejoining the ART program. In 1994 the chief found her way back to McGuire into the 514th Aircraft Generation Squadron. She stayed in AGS until 1998 when she moved to the logistics group as a quality assurance inspector. In 1999 the chief was on the move yet again. Transferring to the logistics support squadron she worked as an aircraft plans and scheduler and in the plans and programs office. Finally, in November 2005 Chief Menser was hired as the maintenance operations flight superintendent.

Chief Menser's varied assignments expanded her maintenance education, giving her a rich background and wealth of experiences to draw from and share.

"Chief Menser is one of the most intelligent and knowledgeable persons I have come to know in my life," said Technical Sgt. John Fielding of the maintenance plans and resource office.

"The depth of her job intelligence is beyond belief. Each time I speak with the chief I learn something new. She is like a walking Air Force instruction. I have known the chief for several years

and not only do I respect her because she is a chief master sergeant, but I truly respect her as a person for whom I am very proud to work. In my 15 years in the military I have never been so motivated to be the best I can be for anyone the way I am for Chief Menser," said Sergeant Fielding.

Respect for Chief Menser not only flows down the chain of command, but her superiors also take note of her accomplishments.

"When I selected the new chief as the 514th MOF superintendent, I only looked at qualifications," said Lt. Col. Anthony Baity, commander, 514th Maintenance Group. "All the candidates for the job were very talented; however, after doing a side-by-side comparison, she clearly was most qualified," he said.

"When I left Westover, a few years back, the final words from my group commander were, 'I hate to see you leave, you're chief potential.'"

"I thought a lot about that statement at the time and since then. Was he offering me the rank of master sergeant? No, but he did offer me insight of my potential to become chief. I don't believe I even entertained the thought until that moment. There's a lot of hard work and time in grade between technical sergeant and chief, but what I came to realize is that every enlisted member is CHIEF potential!"

Chief Menser gives the following advice to anyone wondering how they, too, can attain the coveted eight stripes.

"From the moment we say I do, the opportunity is afforded us to make chief. Become the master of your air force specialty code and without delay do your professional military education as soon as you can! Every day you put it off, is another day promotion is delayed. Finally, volunteer and become a working part of your unit, wing and community," she said.

The chief practices what she preaches: as a wife, mother of three and a grandmother the chief is very busy outside the office, yet, she still finds time to support the wing as a member of the 514th women's softball and bowling teams.

"Being the first female maintenance chief is an honor for Chief Menser and her talent made the choice effortless. Congratulations Chief Menser!"

So long: passwords no more

ID cards now key to unlocking DoD computers for reservists

By Staff Sgt. Denise Quasius
440th Airlift Wing

If I had a nickel for every time I showed up for a UTA weekend and couldn't remember my network login password I would be a rich woman. Fortunately for me, DoD has implemented a program to alleviate my short term memory problems.

Smart Card Logon capability enables users to log onto their major command's unclassified network using their common access cards and associated six-to-eight-digit pin number. It presents a much higher level of network security than the user name/password combination. Additionally, eligible personnel benefit by being freed from having to remember another password and being forced to routinely change it.

The Common Access Card (CAC) is the standard military identification card for DoD. It is issued to U.S. military forces: active duty, Reserve and National Guard, DoD civilian employees, eligible contractor personnel and eligible host nation support personnel.

In addition to being an ID card, the CAC interfaces with the DoD's Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) via digital certificates encoded on the integrated circuit chip. PKI includes a combination of hardware, software, policies, and procedures and provides the ability to authenticate, encrypt and decrypt, and digitally sign electronic mail and documents.

"The driving force is network security and laying the foundation for future operations in a net-centric environment," said Chief Master Sgt. Antoinette Kolesnikov, Chief of Information Systems for the 514th Air Mobility Wing. "Smart Card Logon provides the secure method of verifying your identity by scanning your CAC credentials and your Personal Identification Number (PIN)," she said.

The 514th AMW has been aggressively pursuing full compli-

ance of the Smart Card Logon program as the wing must have its members moved to CAC-only logon by June 30, 2006, according to the chief. All offices in the wing are outfitted with specific software and specialized keyboards or peripheral card readers to support the program.

"Test groups have been set up across the wing to allow us to work out any bugs before we move to 100 percent implementation," said Chief Kolesnikov.

I think it's a wonderful system because it provides the security needed when working at the computer," said Col. James N. Stewart, commander, 514th AMW. "Any time you pull your card out, the systems locks, so you have to physically be present with your ID card in the slot in order to work. That's a nice feature."

Every member of the wing, military and civilian, has been issued a CAC and created a PIN at the time of issuance. The CAC PIN is comprised of 6-8 digits, numbers only. You can test your PIN by using it to logon to the AF Portal. If you have forgotten your PIN, then report to the 514th Military Personnel Flight customer service office to get your PIN reset.

Questions can be directed to your group client support administrator (CSA):

514th Mission Support Group – Tech. Sgt. Eric Daniels, (609) 754-5205; 514th Maintenance Group – Master Sgt. Carl Schmidt, (609) 754-3472; 514th Operations Group – Staff Sgt. Dave Hendriks, (609) 754-8745; and 514th AMW staff agencies – Master Sgt. Derek Williams, (609) 754-5207.

You may also call the SCB office at (609) 754-3243 or 5217.

Lastly, you can learn more information regarding Smart Card Logon and PKI by going to the AF PKI Website at <https://afpki.lackland.af.mil>.

This article was localized by 514th Information Management in order to pertain to wing members here.

PROMOTIONS

The following 514th Air Mobility Wing members were recently promoted:

Airman

Stephanie Marsh, 514th LRF
Yaira Nevarez, 514th CES

Airman First Class

Andrew Blue Jr., 514th CES

Senior Airman

Nyrie Anderson, 514th AMDS
Nicole Barr, 88th APS
Ryan Bray, 514th CES
Warren Bright, 714th AMXS
Ruth Chernowetz, 514th AMW
Bryan Florian, 714th AES
Maria Harrison, 514th AMDS
Michelle Lersch, 514th CS
Ginger Mosquera, 514th MSG

Michael Mullins, 714th AMXS
Felicia Phillips, 514th CS
Stacia Reeves, 514th AMDS
Zenadia Wiggins, 722nd ASTS

Staff Sergeant

Rodvincent Abaya, 514th CES
Kwabena Frempong, 35th APS
John Hansbury, 76th ARS
Keith Linkner, 35th APS
Jessica Osmer, 78th ARS
Knyeria Palmer, 514th MSS
Bryan Pechanec, 714th AMXS
Kingsley Rose, 78th ARS
Carl Tunstall, 88th APS
Brian Williams, 514th MXS
Matthew Yockey, 78th ARS

Technical Sergeant

Tanya Anderson, 514th ASTS

Jermaine Hinds, 514th ASTS
Stuart Mansfield, 714th AMXS
Louis Monaco, 714th AMXS
Kendra Ross, 514th MSG

Master Sergeant

Shana Crosby, 78th ARS
Desaray Forthner, 514th AMDS
Marty Johnson, 78th ARS
Floyd Kirton, 722nd ASTS
Henry Padua, 514th LRF
Shane Proctor, 714th AMXS
Raymond Sambor, 35th APS
Sean Smith, 714th AMXS
John Vicenti, 88th APS

Senior Master Sergeant

Sandra Barrett, 514th AMDS
Timothy Knox, 714th AMXS
David Minnich, 714th AMXS

“Lucky” man assumes command of 514th Operations Group



Lt. Col. Bruce Bowers recently joined the 514th Air Mobility Wing as commander, 514th Operations Group.

Story and Photo
By Donna T. Jeffries
 514 AMW Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Bruce Bowers considers himself the luckiest man on earth to wake up everyday and have the opportunity to come to work and be a part of McGuire Air Force Base, the Air Force Reserve Command and do what he calls “my nation’s business.”

As the newest head of the 514th Operations Group, Colonel Bowers assumes command at 2 p.m. March 25 at a formal ceremony held in the auditorium of Building 2215.

As commander, he pointed out the reality that the nation is at war and it’s up to military members to support the nation and its fighting efforts on Global War on Terrorism. He admits he’d like to leave a legacy of having “some small part in winning this war.”

Categorizing himself as old-fashioned, Colonel Bowers revealed that both his father, who retired from the U.S. Army and Col. Jim Roberts, commander at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., serve as his mentors. He says they both taught him that in the military it’s imperative to build a sense of teamwork.

“You will do things for friends that you won’t do for anyone else,” said Colonel Bowers. “Relationships are the key in a lot of what we do.”

With that philosophy in mind, the ops group commander says he’s learned to truly care about his people. In communicating with them, he tries to talk in a way that takes out all the guesswork.

“If I explain my thought process and rationale they come up with what I want to say, which produces better results,” he said.

“Probably every commander’s true concern are his people – how you integrate that in serving this nation indicates how successful you are as a commander,” said Colonel Bowers.

In terms of operations, the colonel says you have to think about all the things it takes for our people to get the aircraft into the air to perform worldwide missions. His list of “what it takes” includes every career field the Air Force offers.

“It’s being around the people, the mission and flying the aircraft that I enjoy the most,” said Colonel Bowers. “Don’t tell my wife, but I’d probably work for no money,” he said laughing that he probably sounds like an Air Force recruiting commercial.

“Don’t tell my wife, but I’d probably work for no money”

— Lt. Col. Bruce Bowers
 commander, 514th Operations Group

His passion for the military is a family passion; his great grandfather and grandfather served in the German infantry and his father, who immigrated to the United States as a young man, joined the Army.

Colonel Bowers joined the U.S. Air Force in 1981. He spent 11 years on active duty before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1992.

No stranger to McGuire, he was assigned here in the 1980s and spent five years with the 18th Airlift Squadron flying the C-141B Starlifter.

“A lot appears to be the same, yet a lot has changed,” said Colonel Bowers. “The base is gorgeous now and the infrastructure is beautiful.”

On the homefront, the commander has moved into a house that is within two miles of the home where he, his wife, Kim, and two daughters once lived. “It’s like I never really left,” he said.

BRAC-affected people will need to move to find jobs

By 2nd Lt. Dustin Doyle
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – While many Air Force reservists and civilians know their jobs will change under Base Realignment and Closure, one of the most difficult things to grasp is how those shifts will happen.

To date, none of the BRAC actions affecting Air Force Reserve Command units will move entire units from one location to another, and no one will automatically get a job at new locations. If affected by BRAC, old jobs will go away, and people will have to compete for new positions wherever available.

“Keeping our highly-trained, highly-experienced people is vital to our command’s success,” said Steve Mann, director of personnel at Headquarters AFRC at Robins AFB.

To ease the transition, the command is working to ensure gaining units give those moving under BRAC first priority.

“Our goal is to take care of our people,” said Mr. Mann.

To do that, the command is providing full-time civilians and reservists new Web-based job placement services. Called clearing houses, these virtual job fairs take into account personal career and location preferences and work to match BRAC-displaced people with new opportunities.

“The clearing houses will allow military personnel flights to work with commanders and individuals to give BRAC-impacted people priority over new hiring or internal placement,” said Mr. Mann.

According to “A BRAC Guide for Civilian and Military Personnel Issues” – released by the command in January – gaining units will be required to give first priority for placement in vacant positions to displaced people who register in one of the clearing houses.

The technical reason why BRAC-displaced workers must find new jobs at new locations is because of the “transfer of function” rules. None of the command’s BRAC actions qualify as a transfer of function. In cases where a job move is not a transfer of function, employees do not have a right to move with their job to the new unit. While employees may be given a chance to apply, they may have to compete with other candidates for the job.

Command people displaced by BRAC can learn more about the job-placement clearing houses and other assistance by accessing the guide from a military computer at <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/hq/dp/brac>.

AFRC News Service

If affected by BRAC, old jobs will go away, and people will have to compete for new positions wherever available.

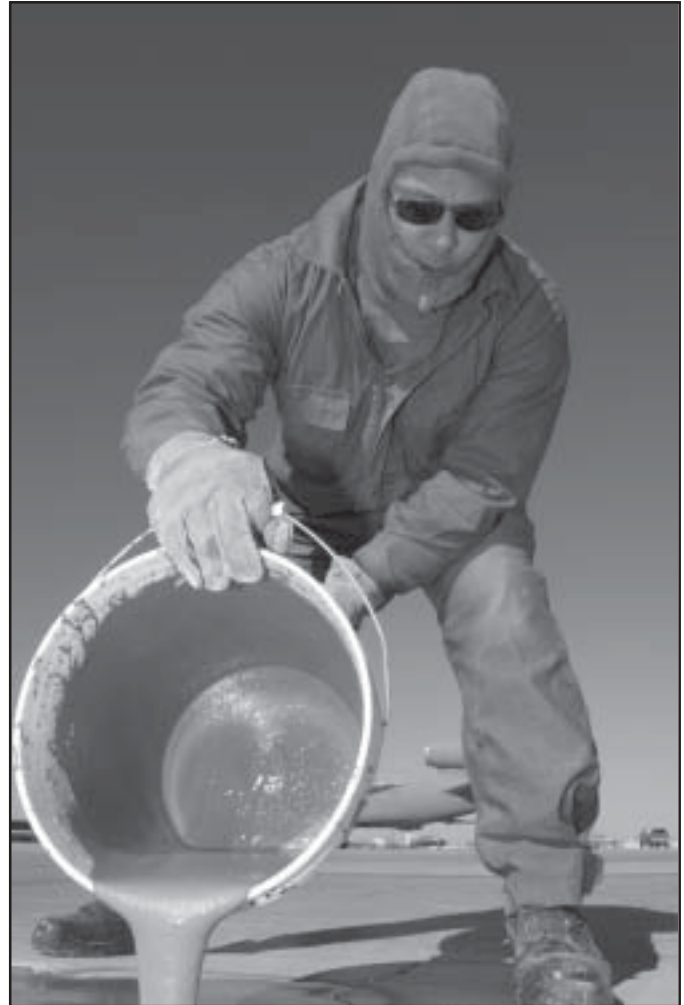


Photo by Kenn Mann

Staff Sgt. Glenn Matthus of the 514th Civil Engineer Squadron fills holes on the flight line with a magnesium-activated mix that will cure within an hour, allowing the mended area to accept 4300 pounds per square inch of pressure.

Women in numbers

212,000: The total number of active duty women in the military, as of Sept. 30, 2004. Of that total, 35,100 women were officers and 177,000 were enlisted.

15%: Proportion of members of the armed forces who were women, as of Sept. 30, 2004. In 1950, women comprised fewer than 2%.

1.7 million: The number of military veterans who are women.

149.1 million: The number of females in the United States as of July 1, 2004. That exceeds the number of males (144.5 million). Males outnumbered females in every five-year-age group through the 35- to 39-age group. Starting with the 40- to 44-age group, women outnumbered men. At 85 and over, there were more than twice as many women as men.

25.4 million: Number of women age 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree or more education in 2004, more than double the number 20 years earlier.

Source: United States Census Bureau

Air Force uniform board releases newest policies

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The 97th Air Force Uniform Board released its newest results for proper wear of the uniform.

The board met in October and discussed everything from eliminating the Air Force Good Conduct Medal to maternity uniforms.

In addition, a Headquarters Air Force badge will be available this summer. The badge provides a distinct identification of military staff members assigned to the Air Staff and the Air Force Secretariat. Details about this badge will be available at a future date.

The following changes are effective immediately:

- Approval to wear the blue nametag with the Air Force informal uniform – the member's abbreviated rank and name will be on one line. This uniform is worn by recruiters, honor guard, enlisted aides, chaplain assistants, world-class athletes, fitness center and health and wellness center staffs.

- Cummerbund pleats will face up in all cases.

- If due to a temporary medical condition, such as chemotherapy, which results in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap, wigs or baldness while in uniform.

- Bracelet size is reduced to one-half inch. Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not permitted. Gemstone and tennis bracelets are only authorized while wearing the mess dress.

- Rings will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring.

- Eyeglasses will not be worn around

the neck, on top or back of the head or hanging on uniform.

- New epoxy blue nametag is optional on the blue shirt.

- Wear of the firefighter duty badge is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3E7X1 duty Air Force specialty code, including periods of professional military education and staff tours above group level.

- Wear of the security forces duty badge and beret is authorized while individuals are assigned a 3PXXX duty AFSC position and is also their primary AFSC, including PME attendance and staff tours above group level.

- The Air Force Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded. Previously earned medals are still permitted.

- Mandatory wear of the physical training uniform is set for Oct. 1 as per instructions released last November.

- Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray, and must be conservative. They may be clipped to the left side of the waistband or purse or carried in the left hand. Only one may be worn in uniform while using phones, radios or hands-free headsets unless required in performing official duties using a government-issued device.

- Permanent wear of the scuba badge is authorized on the battle dress uniform.

- While not deployed, desert combat uniforms may not be worn unless en route to the basic combat convoy course. "Deployed" for this purpose includes members traveling en route to/from rest and recuperative leave from the Central Command area of responsibility, as outlined in the policy announced in mid-2005.

This session of the Air Force

Uniform Board included a special panel specifically chartered to make recommendations regarding updates/revisions to uniform standards affecting women Airmen. After careful review, the board approved several changes that affect women specifically:

- "Scrunchies" are prohibited.

- Hairpins and bands must match hair color.

- Hair color, frosting and highlights will not be faddish and will match natural hair colors, i.e. blonde, brunette, natural red, black or gray.

- No shaved head or flat top hairstyles for women.

- Synthetic hair can be worn, as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.

- Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized.

- Nail polish will not contrast with complexion or detract from the uniform. Nor is polish of extreme color, such as purple, gold, black, blue or any fluorescent color, authorized. Nail polish will also be limited to one color.

- French manicures are allowed, but fingernail length in all instances will not exceed one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip.

- In addition to clutch-style purses, purses with no more than two straps are authorized with mess dress.

- Earrings will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl or silver with any uniform combinations and must be worn as a set. For those with multiple ear piercing, only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe and will also conform to these earring wear standards when performing duty in civilian clothes.

- Male flight cap is optional.

The updates will be added to the Air Force Instruction 36-2903 when the new version is released in March.

The Air Force Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded.

Under fire

Lt Col. Mark Usteszewski, standing, wing chief of safety, emphasize the value of good listening skills with a hands-on fire safety training demonstration at the Feb. 26 commander's call. Following his annual brief, volunteers from the audience were selected to show what they learned.



Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

AF begins new cell phone restriction

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — The Air Force is implementing a new cell phone restriction for drivers.

Beginning Feb. 27, drivers are not allowed to talk on their cell phones while driving on Air Force installations without a hands free device. This policy is part of the Department of Defense's Joint Traffic Guidance.

This restriction also applies to all government owned vehicles, or GOVs, at all times. No GOV drivers are permitted to talk on a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device on or off base.

"This is really a cooperative effort for everyone from the base populace to the base leaders," said Master Sgt. Gloria Ornelas, the superintendent of law enforcement for Air Force Security Forces. "I think it is long overdue. The DOD recognized that, and we are now in line with what some states and municipalities are doing to create a safer environment for drivers."

The DOD joint traffic guidance, known as Air Force Instruction 31-201 (I), will restrict the use of cell phones while driving. Only cell phones with hands-free devices will be allowed for use by drivers. This guidance also allows the Air Force to use portable breath screening devices as long as they conform to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards.

The Defense Department's joint traffic document states:

"Vehicle operators on a DOD Installation and operators of

Government owned vehicles shall not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device.

"The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones or other listening devices (except for hand-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited. Use of those devices impairs driving and masks or prevents recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, and human speech. DOD component safety guidance should note the potential for driver distractions such as eating and drinking, operating radios, CD players, global positioning equipment, etc. Whenever possible this should only be done when the vehicle is safely parked."

Using a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device will be considered a "primary offense." This means violators will be able to be stopped solely for this offense.

Drivers who violate this cell phone driving restriction will be given three assessment points against their driving records or an appropriate fine. Drivers should be aware that if two or more violations are committed, even on a single occasion, a ticket may be given to the driver for each violation.

"It was recognized at the DOD level that we needed some changes," Sergeant Ornelas said. "The winner here is the base populace. They will have more mobility while driving, a greater range of view — in short, a safer driving environment for all."



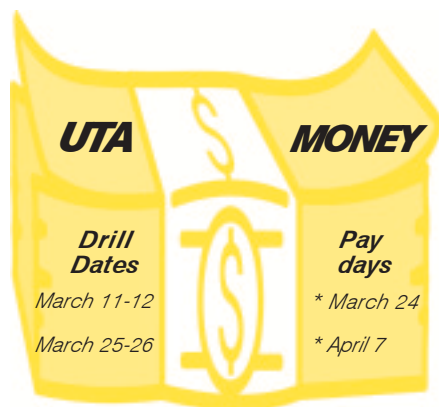
Photo by Kenn Mann

Members of the 514th Chief Groups presents avid runner Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ball, 305th Air Mobility Wing command chief with a farewell present Feb. 17 during his final run through McGuire. The command chief retired from the Air Force after 27 years.



Photo by Visual Information

New Jersey Congressman Jim Saxton and Team McGuire leaders officially open the doors to four base facilities in a series of ribbon cutting ceremonies held Feb. 13.



***Pay dates are subject to change. For information, contact your unit pay monitor.**

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